

# BRENAU

FALL 2008

*Window*

Annual Report of Donors

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Crime victim advocate Kim McCoy

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Helen Ray bids *adieu*

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## Brenau and the Global Economy

**THIS SUMMER I VISITED TWO REMARKABLE** individuals in Washington, D.C., both with strong Brenau connections: U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, whose wife, Lilibet, is a Brenau Academy alumna, and Dr. Gale Allen, a top NASA official who enhanced her science background with a Brenau M.B.A. Both individuals provided inspirational insight for our continued examination of national and global events and their impact on Brenau University.

Our 2025 strategic plan to become a widely recognized doctoral degree-granting institution took into account some evolving economic and demographic factors. First, in the future, fewer traditional-age students will be graduating from U.S. high schools and seeking undergraduate diplomas. Second, all demographic groups, particularly non-traditional students, will demand more advanced educational certification and graduate degrees because current and prospective employers will require those credentials. Finally, there is an opportunity for filling a void for a private, professionally oriented doctoral university in Georgia. Brenau's strategy, which includes strengthening and advancing the Women's College, fulfills the university's mission and assures its long-term fiscal and academic viability. Brenau committed itself to raise the bar in higher education and help fill these gaps in intellectually qualified professionals and responsible citizens.

For Brenau "the future" arrived slightly ahead of schedule and brought with it unwelcome economic baggage. In academic year 2008-09 we grew in overall student enrollments but had about 50 fewer new Women's College undergraduates than expected. Also, adverse economic impact on state revenues probably means eroding state financial support for private higher education. In response, we revised budgets and continue to exercise financial restraint. Brenau remains financially sound – in much better fiscal condition than other institutions, some of which reported enrollment declines as high as 30 percent.

I will not rehash the alarming economic problems that have dominated the news since my visit to Washington and have led to unprecedented government reactions. These solutions, I believe, address only festering symptoms of a much-deeper disease – a decline in the quality and effectiveness of scholarly, ethical education.

As I spoke with Dr. Allen, I was energized hearing her outline the possibilities of future space exploration. Given the astounding societal contributions begat by 20th century space exploration, can you imagine what might come from 21st

century missions? Before we launch the rocket, requirements of a manned Mars trip could easily lead to solar-powered terrestrial vehicles and cancer-fighting advances

in women's health as more female astronauts prepare for radiation exposure in long space journeys. Sadly, if our leaders fail to apply our limited resources of finance and collective will to the economic recovery effort, all of that could be jeopardized.

Sen. Hagel was no less thought-provoking. He clearly understands that educational opportunities and research generated huge advances in American productivity during the last half of the 20th century – the underpinning of national security and prosperity. We seem to have forgotten that history. In his book, *America: Our Next Chapter*, Hagel observes that U.S. companies represented 50 percent of the new common stocks offered around the world in 2000 – a good measure of business innovation, much of which stemmed from academic research. Today it is about five percent. In 2005 foreign companies won six of the top 10 U.S. patents. A closer-to-home example he cited was that the 15 education schools in one southeastern state from 1990-2005 graduated a total of only three new physics teachers. The last fact resonates deeply at Brenau. We constantly face the challenge of hiring qualified faculty in science, nursing, mathematics and other fields.

Sen. Hagel and Dr. Allen will agree, I believe, that Americans must invest more in education to provide a secure future. This juncture is where we as individuals come in. We must keep the pressure on our leaders so they will not short sell education and visionary programs in quick-fix solutions to economic problems. And, we need to rededicate ourselves to supporting – in any way we can – all legitimate educational institutions, especially Brenau, as we strive to make exemplary contributions to our global society.

These are tough, troubling times, but I feel buoyed by your encouragement and enthusiasm. I am thankful that I have you, the Brenau family, to help us meet the challenges.



*Ed L. Schrader*

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# Ray of Sunshine

BY DAVID MORRISON

As a little girl she often climbed aboard a chair in The Orchid Club and peered through the kitchen door window at her parents as they mingled with patrons of the popular Tulsa supper club, focusing particularly on her vivacious mother, Miss Oklahoma of 1929, who always seemed to be the center of attention. She listened to the band, watched the people dancing, then trundled off to the little room they kept for her and fell asleep. After closing time, her parents gathered her up and took her to the modest, well-kept brick home where she grew up – the place where the bootlegger from across the state line in Joplin, Mo., dropped off the weekly shipment of wine and liquor for the family business.

Oklahoma was the last state in the Union to repeal Prohibition, and did so only in 1959 – 26 years after ratification of the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution overturned the Volstead Act that had banned sale of all alcoholic beverages throughout the country. Although many folks in the state winked at the anachronistic, illogically applied state and local laws, for the next 23 years the one adult beverage you could buy legally in a bar was 3.2 beer. If you wanted a cocktail in a public place, you had to take your own bottle – purchased from a state-owned liquor store – to a city-licensed private club, which could serve the member

only a “set-up” for a drink. For patrons who could show an out-of-state driver’s license, establishments like The Orchid Club were merely local watering holes; for the locals who wanted to skip the brown-bagging and buy a drink, however, they were speakeasies.

For Helen Ray, it was the genesis of a serendipitous, eclectic education that continues today on the eve of her retirement in December as Brenau University provost and the institution’s top academic officer.

Ray makes no apologies for what she describes as “just something my parents did.” It helped shape who she is today. Her parents’ topsy-turvy schedules nurtured her independence and initiative. She attributes the ease with which she moved in often male-dominated environments in her education and career to that – and to the tutelage of her sometimes rowdy and mischievous brother, Edward, eight years her senior, who taught her “that I had to be tough.”

She idolized her big brother, who occasionally let her play baseball and football with him and his friends and help him with his chores. “I could throw a spiral that would totally impress you,” she says. “He taught me to mow the lawn, although I didn’t understand until later his hidden agenda.”

Her mother, Mary, technically was Rosa Maria Marco, a first-generation Italian immigrant. Mary’s parents settled in an unlikely Italian enclave in eastern



As Brenau Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Helen Ray prepares to retire at the end of 2008, she reflects on the life-long journey that shaped her personally and professionally. In the photos clockwise from the left, Ray in Florence, Italy, reflects her love of travel that she says she will have more time for now; the new University of Virginia Ph.D. with a love of learning that continues; and Ray as a single mother with sons David and Jim, her love of family.

Oklahoma, where there was plenty of work in the mines. Once she won the Miss Oklahoma title, however, Mary lit out for New York, where she became a dancer, a model and a passionate consumer of the city’s opportunities for culture and self-education. There she also met and married Helen’s father, Edward Cederbaum, a Prussian-born Jew. They moved to Tulsa when Helen was 5 years old.

In her home in Gainesville, Ray proudly displays a vintage portrait of her grandparents with a toddler version of her mother posed atop a short column. “The joke in our family was they put my mother on a pedestal and there she stayed for the next 91 years,” Ray beams. “But she was my best promoter and best critic. What she did was liberate me at an early age.” And her mother gave Helen a love of learning. Her mother’s antique mahogany credenza, which now displays bottles of wine, was a repository of encyclopedias, magazines, books of Aesop’s fables and plays of Aeschylus in Tulsa. With parents who never “asked me about grades or whether I’d done my homework,” she took charge of her own education. After attending a Catholic elementary school, she wheedled her way into Tulsa’s newest public high school instead of going to the older school in her neighborhood. Very soon after she entered the University of Oklahoma as a freshman, she says, “I knew I wanted more from my college experience than ‘Boomer Sooner.’”

**RAY CAME TO BRENAU** in the summer of 1993, a year after trustees officially voted to transform what was then a 115-year-old women’s college into a university. It still clung stubbornly – and appropriately, in her view – to its heritage as a women’s college, but it also was wrestling with the pantheologic future of integrating into the fabric of the place the somewhat unwieldy

and organically evolving coeducational evening and weekend programs on remote campuses. The university still delivered courses via the antiquated quarter system, abandoned by then on many campuses throughout the United States.

John Burd, the Brenau president from 1985-2005, says he recruited Ray from her previous post as vice president of academic affairs at Peace College, Raleigh, N.C., because she hit all the hot buttons Brenau required: experience in dealing with the accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, “which we needed;” a genuine intellectual who at the same time was a true “people person;” and “a fantastic knack for hiring good faculty.”

Plus, Burd adds, Ray had considerable experience with single-gender education. Peace is a women’s college. At the end of her own freshman year, when she decided to get out of Dodge (or in this case, Norman, Okla.), she headed for Randolph-Macon Women’s College in Lynchburg, Va., where she majored in French with minors in German and art history. In an interview in these pages a year ago Ray explained with her characteristic dry wit why she chose a women’s college: “That was where all the smartest, cleverest women went, and I wanted to be one of them.”

Ray earned a Ph.D. in French language and literature in 1979 from the University of Virginia, which had just admitted its first female undergraduates nine years earlier. Her M.S. in French and linguistics was from Georgetown University in 1969 only a year after trustees formally abandoned the all-male tradition of the Jesuit institution.

Her greatest awakening, “the big exclamation mark,” as she describes it, came during an undergraduate year she spent at the University of Paris in the mid 1960s. By her own description she was “the cute little American who wandered around the streets of Paris in heels, a black shift and a cute little hat reading Moliere, Baudelaire, Sartre and Ionesco, going to see these little events, these ‘happenings’, in little out-of-the-way Parisian theaters, and dining each Friday with French dignitaries at *Chez Maxime’s*.” She learned quickly, however, that for many of her fellow students in those days at the height of the Vietnam War,

America was not the center of the universe. Her French language abilities allowed her to bob around freely in the sea of anti-U.S. sentiment. But as another American in Paris at the time recently wrote, the *lingua franca* in 1960s Paris was Marxism. There was an unabashed fascination with Latin American and Chinese communism – and with ideas that were just beginning to blossom on American campuses. In a two-or three-year period, movements in the country, largely driven by students and intellectuals who took to the streets with French revolutionary zeal, led to remarkable reforms in that democracy, particularly in matters concerning family law, the rights of women, divorce, contraception and other issues.

She had moved on to Georgetown by the spring of '68, that pivotal time in American history which saw the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., riots, anti-war protests and many other signals to people of Ray's generation that the world of their parents had forever changed.

Ray did not walk onto the Brenau campus wearing a Che Guevara beret and carrying Chairman Mao's little red book. In addition to that rich personal experience, what she brought was a wealth of professional experience from 15 years of rising in the academic ranks as a French professor at Lynchburg College and another decade of growth as an academic administrator at Peace. All of her personal and professional experience outfitted her with clear – maybe even a tad radical – convictions of what higher education needed to become in the 21st century.

“Liberal education must be experienced in combination with strong professional preparation. It's not one or the other,” she says. A true college education “is not just about what you want to do, but how you learn to make changes in your life, how you get started, how you can discover different ways to feed spirit and soul – and still make a living. . . . It is not just about the classes you take. It is about your life experience.”

Ray acknowledges that she has had some significant accomplishments during her 15-year tenure at Brenau and that she has been intimately involved with shaping the future of the university.

“But what does that mean?” she asks rhetorically. “It means that I've been doing my job.” Nothing would have happened, she adds hastily, without support and collaboration of faculty, staff, administration and many others in and around the university family. “A university is like a *kibbutz*,” she explains. “You just can't get anything done alone, and everything is interconnected.”

As Brenau's new provost, Ray spearheaded the drive, against some resistance, to abandon the academic quarter calendar in favor of the semester system. Once Brenau made the move, the other Georgia-based hold-outs tumbled like dominoes. She worked with faculty to reorganize academic departments into the four schools that now exist – and which more closely reflected the culture and mission of the university. Psychology, for example, moved from the School of Education to the School of Health and Science. The university was kicking tires on starting a physical therapy program when Ray arrived, but she redirected efforts toward occupational therapy, which takes a very holistic approach more in line with the liberal arts. The Master's degree program created as a result was one of the first in the nation – even before the graduate degree became a preferred credential of the top OT professional association. She led the way in expanding the institutional research department and helped revive strategic planning. Part of the latter process was creating a curriculum for the future – the kind of thing Ray says academicians can discuss and debate for years without accomplishing anything. She developed a compelling rationale to put the new curriculum planning on a two-year timetable, and then handed it over to the four deans to make it happen.

“In my years on the faculty, Dr. Ray always stood as the beacon of all that was the best that Brenau could be,” said J. Kay Keels of Murrells Inlet, S.C., the former head of M.B.A. programs at Brenau and now associate professor of strategic management at Coastal Carolina University. “She challenged all of us to always work to be better than we ever thought we could be.”

Burd also handed Ray responsibility for bringing more

technology to the classrooms at Brenau, which resulted in creation of the Redwine Center in the library and other technology-equipped environments on campus. However, she chuckles as she confesses that, when she unveiled her plan to the administration and trustees, it was the first time she'd ever done a Power Point presentation on a computer.

This year the French professor takes special pride in Brenau's selection as one of only 10 universities in the nation to participate in the Network for Effective Language Learning, a program to stimulate innovative technology-based approaches to teaching foreign language. And you can find her every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the new Language Bistro, modeled after one of her beloved Parisian cafés, as a student in Brenau's new foreign language offering – professor Larry Bolling's “sold out” Italian class.

**IT IS NO SECRET** that Ray was a top candidate to replace Burd when he retired. If she harbors any disappointment over trustees' ultimate selection of Ed Schrader as Brenau's ninth president, she has kept it to herself. Truth told, Ray shrugs, she and Schrader are *simpatico* in many ways, particularly in their liberal political and educational philosophies. When the provost and the new president compared notes on the nuts-and-bolts work she already had undertaken with deans on development of a new curriculum and his ideas for creating ground-breaking “four portals” curriculum at Brenau, there were few discernible differences.

“She is the consummate professional,” Schrader says, “every bit the true leader of the faculty that she was before. She does not carry a personal burden into any intellectual discussion. You can't say that about many people. She is at her heart and core a scholar and a defender of liberal learning.”

That's a hard task, Schrader adds, particularly in some traditional liberal arts domains like foreign languages. “Brenau maintains a commitment to the learning of language, not as a byproduct but as a co-product of exposing students to broader culture and enriching their global perspectives,” he says. Many schools have “opted for the easier path” of not requiring students to study second languages at all. Also, Brenau and other institutions react to considerable pressures to train people for jobs as quickly as possible, rather than to educate them. That means more pre-professional instruction earlier in students' college careers, leaving little time for any other courses. Ray has helped the university resist those pressures, Schrader says, and find its voice for the future.

“A provost, if he or she chooses to be, becomes the artist who sculpts the faculty, assembles the mosaic of intellect and personality, so that it fits the institution, and Helen is very good at that,” Schrader says. “The faculty respect her and follow her leadership, not begrudgingly, but willingly. I don't think we could have put together this new curriculum had that not been the case. Her advocacy of 21st century approaches to teaching the liberal arts through a new core curriculum that reflects the strategic plan and a new mission has created a fluorescence of courses rich in interdisciplinary matter and liberal learning.”

“**WHEN YOU GROW UP CATHOLIC**, you've got a whole lot of names,” says Helen Theresa Cederbaum Staples Ray. She jokes that the only commonality on each of the diplomas that hang on her office wall is “Helen.” In 1983 the name issue set out on a path to become more complex than normal when, her first marriage having ended, she and her two sons, David and Jim, left Virginia for North Carolina. She was a single mom with a promising career, she recalls, “and I was fine with that.” Then, she went to a dinner party at the home of the CFO of North Carolina State University and noticed a “tall, handsome professional gentleman standing in a doorway.” When they struck up a conversation, she says, “I really didn't want to hear about his ex-wife or his ex-girlfriend, but here was a computer scientist from Research Triangle Institute, a Princeton graduate with a Ph.D. from Chapel Hill who spoke some French. So I remember thinking, ‘Hmmm. He's a possibility.’”



Helen and Bob Ray, who is “the genius in the family,” according to the Brenau provost.

Helen and Bob Ray have now been married for close to 20 years, with four grown children between them. Bob currently serves as senior systems analyst for the federal court system in north Georgia and, as Helen puts it, “he is the genius in the family, now a far more serious student than I.”

The Rays' Gainesville home serves as something of a museum for their blended families and eclectic interests. With strains of Debussy in the background, she sits sipping tea in a striking great room with a vaulted, sky-lighted ceiling, red brick walls brightened by her mother's paintings and a view through an expanse of glass to the covered-patio and plantings in the well-kept back yard.

“I have my cats, books, plants, music, my family, new destinations, the garden. When people ask me what I'm going to do when I retire. . . .” she says, looking around her comfortable surroundings, “I'll probably think of something.”

As the conversation turns to her educational philosophies and how she might shape future learning, the obligatory interview question emerges. “If you ruled the world, . . .”

“If I ruled the world?” she interrupts with mock incredulity. “I thought I did.”

Ray with President Ed Schrader, business professor and Chinese language instructor Greg Chase, and Trustees' Chairman Pete Miller in China during negotiations to establish “sister institution” relationships with three Chinese universities. In the foreground are two current Brenau students, Shuchang Liu and Meng Liu, and Zhengzhou University former dean and English Professor Li Yunlou, who helped organize the trip and select scholarship students.



In Qatar in March Ray was keynote speaker at the Arab Colleges of Education Deans Association, attended by about 50 deans from institutions throughout the Arab world. With Ray, from the left, are former Brenau professor Mickey Mathes, who remained in Qatar following a Fulbright Fellowship, Dr. Fatima Al-Maadadi, Associate Dean for Student Affairs for the College of Education, Dr. Ray and Dr. Hisa Sadiq, Dean of the College of Education on the right





Kimberly Smith

Left: Photos of homicide victims in the past decade help advocate Kim McCoy remember the real costs of skyrocketing murder rates in America's smaller communities. She found her calling as a Brenau undergraduate. Now it is difficult to differentiate between the job and the woman.

# Crime's many faces.

BY DAVID MORRISON

On April 17, 2003, Lawrence Rice, nursing a 13-year-long grudge against a former supervisor, went to the man's home in the quiet Atlanta suburbs near Marietta, Ga., tied up the man's 47-year-old wife and 14-year-old son, then hacked and bludgeoned them with a hatchet. Shortly afterward, a 12-year-old girl came home from school to the gruesome scene, her mother dead and her younger brother soon to be. In July of this year, Rice received a

sentence of death by lethal injection – the first time a Cobb jury has imposed that penalty in almost a decade. A key piece in the conviction was the testimony of now 17-year-old Marlee Mincher, the only surviving member of the brutalized family. Her father, Trevor Mincher, died of cancer in 2005, two years after the deaths of his wife, Connie, and son, Ethan.

**ON THE EVE OF JURY SELECTION FOR THE TRIAL, Kim McCoy, WC '92,** anxiously “enjoyed” a rare moment of quiet time in her fashionably cluttered office in the modern judicial center complex just off Marietta's peaceful and picturesque town square. She knew the trial could last six weeks, but the process of picking a jury had been delayed while the trial judge and another jury considered the defendant's mental capacity to stand trial. The Brenau psychology and criminal justice major's concern, however, was not Rice's mental state, but that of Marlee Mincher and other victims of the crime.

McCoy heads the Victim Witness Unit for Cobb's district attorney. She oversees all cases covered by Georgia's 1995 Crime Victims Bill of Rights, but she personally handles cases involving the death penalty. Prosecutors in the county prepare witnesses for their trial testimony, going over facts and statements that defense lawyers will thoroughly and vigorously challenge in the courtroom. McCoy and her staff of nine advocates and two support personnel help guide victims and witnesses through the complexity and confusion of the criminal justice system – through myriad pretrial delays, appeals and legal maneuvers. They take care of creature comforts occasionally and almost always address emotional needs and frustrations through what often is a years-long ordeal.

“What most people know about the criminal justice system they've seen on TV,” McCoy explains. “On shows like *Law and Order*, the crime happens and the perpetrators are brought to justice in 52 minutes.” In McCoy's world, things are considerably different.

The Mincher case is exhibit A. Police arrested Rice one day after the murders in what appeared to be an air-tight case. That was more than five years before his trial began. According to *The Marietta Daily Journal* editorial applauding the verdict, with the inevitable appeals, “Rice will be an old man indeed before he finally receives the full measure of justice.” Another example is that previous Cobb death penalty case. A jury in 1999 condemned Virgil Delano Presnell Jr. to die for kidnapping and murdering two 8-year-old girls, drowning one of them in a creek. The crime actually happened 30 years ago. Presnell still resides on death row.

Richard Malone, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia, argues that one tragedy of the system is that crime victims often run out of gas, emotionally and economically, before justice is served. Emotionally, victims must continually relive some of the most traumatic occurrences life can throw at them. Practically, some witnesses may have to take time off work repeatedly to give depositions or testify in trials. Key witnesses with unsympathetic employers won't risk losing livelihoods, even if their failure to testify means the perpetra-

tor goes free. There are also guilt-ridden family members who obsess over whether they could have prevented the crime or who don't want to provide testimony that could send a loved-one to prison or death row. Also, defense lawyers can be brutal in court, even to victims of the most heinous crimes. But so can prosecutors, who sometimes focus on courtroom battles and legal details so much they forget to attend to needs of witnesses and victims' families. As ex-prosecutor Malone puts it, those who commit crimes have already victimized these people once. Advocates like Kim McCoy “just want to make sure that the criminal justice system does not victimize them again.”

McCoy became head of the Cobb County Victim Witness Unit in 1999, two years after she joined the staff to manage a domestic violence program. She has a Master's degree in public

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*In Kim McCoy's world,  
there are no victimless crimes.*

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administration from Kennesaw State University, where she occasionally teaches classes. She lobbied for passage of the Georgia Crime Victims Restitution Act of 2005. Last year Gov. Sonny Perdue added to her impressive credentials in social work, family violence and community work by appointing her to the Sex Offender Registry Review Board.

However, her career working with crime victims began at Brenau. The summer before her senior year, she took an internship near campus in the Hall County victim witness program, and she was hooked. She stayed on as a volunteer.

McCoy was convinced that working with crime victims was the career for her, but at the time victim witness advocacy was a relatively new field with few jobs available. She enrolled in graduate school at the University of Georgia, but before the first semester ended, the dyed-in-the-wool Georgia Bulldogs fan got a call from another Brenau alum. **Jessica Vaughn Moss, WC '82,** reported to McCoy that Cherokee was about to start a victim witness program. McCoy's only professional experience had been that internship, but less than a year out of Brenau she got the job and ran the program for five years.

“I was blessed enough to be in the right place at the right time,” she says. “But this work has become a passion. I educated myself. I worked hard. I learned something every day. I cannot think of anything that I would rather do. All of my education, all of my background has led me to this.”

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**KIMBERLY BETH MCCOY** who has three sisters and a brother, grew up in Bartow County in Kingston, a northwest Georgia town with her parents' general store at the one-caution-light town's lone intersection. She attended private Darlington School in nearby Rome and, after her first college-shopping visit, quickly dismissed Brenau as a prospect. On a second visit, "the minute I walked through that gate, I knew it was where I needed to be," she says. Her best high school friend **Stephanie Dodson Hart, WC '92**, came with her.

There is no doubt of McCoy's school loyalties. She jokes that her office "doubles as a store room" with boxes of case files labeled with names familiar from sensational news accounts (the cartons marked "State v. Turner" deal with the case of Lynn Turner, convicted for the antifreeze poisonings of her Cobb County police officer husband and Forsyth County fireman boyfriend). Numerous other appointments and bits of memorabilia, however, bear the Brenau logo. Richard Malone, who has known McCoy since he took the Prosecuting Attorneys Council job, says he can't recite many details from McCoy's resume, "but, believe me, I do know that she went to Brenau."

McCoy remains active in alumni affairs. She's a regular at May Day reunions with her classmates and Zeta Tau Alpha sisters; she's also an alumni philanthropy chair and a member of the Heritage Society, an ad hoc organization of young Brenau alumnae in the Atlanta area. She and fellow alumnae Hart and Moss remain close. Moss works in the same building where she is Cobb's deputy chief solicitor, and she is married to Cherokee District Attorney Garry Moss.

*Although DAs say you can't teach qualities victim witness advocates require, McCoy's Brenau experience prepared her less than a year after graduation to start shaping the new profession. Now she's a leader in the field, quite willing to share what she's learned with others.*

McCoy initially planned to become a child psychologist, but confesses, ironically, that she feared daily involvement with desperately troubled or traumatized kids. Former Brenau criminal justice professor George Lucas steered her toward her unique role in the criminal justice system. She states unequivocally that her entire Brenau experience nurtured her suitability for victim witness work.

"If you can live in a sorority house with 30 other women and survive, you can do just about anything," she quips. But, she adds seriously, "I am a huge proponent of single-sex institutions." One complaint against all-female colleges is they do not prepare young women to function in a dual-gender world. McCoy says she had that part covered already because most of her high school friends were male. Besides, she adds, "women are sometimes harder on other women than men are. Women have to learn to compete and interact with other women, too."

Still, gender probably plays a significant role in victim witness advocacy. Today all 49 Georgia judicial districts have victim witness programs. Women run 47 of them.

"The job fits women's nature," says Malone. "There is a lot of compassion required for someone, day in and day out, to deal with people who have been victimized by crimes, had their lives thrown into turmoil and sometimes changed forever. Men aren't wired that way. Kim McCoy is exactly what we need for that kind of job." Don't think for a moment, however, that her compassion signals weakness. "You talk about advocates – Kim is a formidable advocate," Malone adds. "She is compassionate, but if you get in her way, look out."

Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head elevated McCoy to her post shortly after he was elected as the county's top prosecutor. He says probably no formal education could specifically prepare a person for such a challenging assignment. "It's more personal attributes," he continues, "like establishing a good rapport with people and being very, very organized." Whatever the attributes are, he adds uneffusively, McCoy seems to have them. "I pretty much told her she could run the department any way she wanted to as long as we didn't have any problems. We haven't had any problems."

In addition to providing victims and their family members information about procedures and nuances of the legal system and keeping them updated as a case progresses, the victim witness advocate's major function is that of logistician: there are a lot of moving parts in a criminal prosecution, Head explains, particularly one that involves the death penalty.

**IN SEPTEMBER 2007 KIM MCCOY TRANSFERRED** virtually her entire operation more than 300 miles to coastal Brunswick, Ga. Stacey Ian Humphreys was on trial there for the 2003 murders in a Cobb County subdivision on two real estate agents – 33-year-old Cyndi Williams and 21-year-old Lori Brown. Each young woman have been stripped naked and shot in the back of the head.

Humphreys withdrew money from ATMs using the victims' bank cards. Police and federal marshals caught him in Wisconsin after a high-speed 35-mile automobile chase. Defense lawyers argued that Humphreys could not get a fair trial in Marietta because of sensational pre-trial publicity, so the trial judge ordered the change in venue.

McCoy's office had the task of booking travel, making hotel

## The one unanswerable question is 'Why?'

accommodations, providing meals and handling many other arrangements for an array of witnesses that included federal and state law enforcement personnel, forensics experts, bank employees and others and for members of the victims' families. The trial lasted 31 days. Glynn County jurors put Humphreys on death row.

"Kim was the rock for me," says Teri Marks Brunner of Norcross, Ga., Cyndi Williams' sister. "In this most horrible situation that anyone could imagine, there is this person who is not only as solid as she can be, but compassionate and able to answer every single question. Sometimes it was just a hand on my shoulder. She helped me maintain my sanity through the trial, probably, because I was feet away from the man who murdered my sister. Just a hand on my shoulder. She's an incredible woman. She became a



friend to my family."

Cyndi Williams' father George Marks shared similar sentiments. "When you go through something like this, you are grasping for someone who can give you answers and let you know what is being done and what could be done," he says. "Although we live in Colorado, Kim was right there for us all the time. Her explanations were thorough and fair. She was extremely professional, but she also proved to be an extremely compassionate person."

Marks says he recalls at the trial McCoy carried with her a crayon drawing by her niece, and that drawing "told me this lady has some balance in her life, and we took comfort from that."

Lori Brown's father, Wayne, concedes that during the frustrating ordeal he "definitely stayed in the hair" of prosecutors and police, especially when nothing seemed to be happening. He credits McCoy with getting his family what answers she could and calming him down "in a very delicate way with an unassuming manner."

"Sometimes you see people who are tailor-made for a specific job where the person and the job are one, and that is Kim. [District Attorney] Pat Head could have searched the world over and not found anybody more suited to that job than Kim McCoy. She is a credit to that office in every respect."

Unfortunately, McCoy probably will have even more interaction with victims' families in the future. Statistics indicate that violent crime, like everything else, is migrating to smaller communities and the suburbs. In 1980 about 223,000 people lived in Cobb County, and there were only five cases of murder and manslaughter. By 2005 the explosive growth of the county had more than doubled the population to about 450,000. The number of homicides and manslaughters more than quadrupled.

**PROSECUTORS AND CRIMINOLOGISTS** will not state that victim witness programs themselves are a crime deterrent, but they agree that helping victims and witnesses persevere through long ordeals ensures more convictions. McCoy's great success, however unquantifiable, has been putting human faces on victims and their families.

Homicide is but one crime that generates loss and suffering. Members of McCoy's advocacy staff are assigned to a specific court and one day may handle a shoplifting case and the next a rape.

"You see so much trauma and so many people whose lives have been irrevocably changed because of some horrendous acts. The difficulty is that you cannot tell anybody why. You can say bad things happen to good people, but when it is your family member who has been murdered in some random act of violence, that's just not acceptable."

"Every case is different. All victims are different. But in every victimization there is a loss – a loss of property, a loss of life, a loss of trust in people and a loss of faith in your community and the legal system."

"Some of them," McCoy says, "are just gut-wrenching."

# Charming Donny

The mountains are silhouetted darkly against the evening sky as the sun drops below the horizon. Maggie Valley is growing serenely quiet as the tourist traffic ebbs away. A rumbling sound approaches from around the corner, and three, four, five heavy motorcycles pass through the little North Carolina town, heading for Nantahala Gorge. No, these are not Appalachia's answer to *Sons of Anarchy*, television's outlaw biker gang that runs the fictional California mountain town of Charming like mobile Mafiosi. This group includes a pastor, an industry executive and one Donny Moore, who just retired as Brenau University's Augusta campus director.



**MOORE THUMBS THE STARTER BUTTON** on his Harley-Davidson and the big engine springs to life. Little silver skulls stand out like twinkling stars. But his leather jacket creaks as he lets out a hearty laugh when you ask him about the biker culture of beer, babes and bar brawls. “No, I’ve never tried that, and with two fellow academics and two police officers for riding buddies, it’s not likely I’ll get into that, either,” he says. “We’re just regular guys, whether it’s in the classroom or on the highway.” All the biker stuff is just a way to have a little fun and putter around the mountains.

Although he will have more time for motorcycles now that he’s given up his day job, when Moore was on campus, he left the leather at home. Moore was always impeccably dressed in suit and tie and with an ever-present smile. Charming though he was, the director looked more like a Lexus salesman than an outlaw biker.

The already well-running Augusta campus flourished after Moore took the handlebars in 2002. There are close to 300 students enrolled at the two Augusta locations for the 103 classes on the fall schedule. Although Brenau moved off the U.S. Army’s Ft. Gordon post, military personnel remain a strong market. Students bring a large variety of backgrounds to the classroom. The campus specializes in courses that improve highly valued professional skills, such as accounting, managerial leadership and finance, but it also provides a breadth of topics

ranging from art appreciation to science concepts “that rivals many larger university campuses,” Moore says.

“Running a campus is no big deal,” he explains. “All it takes is good communications, and a bit of organization. Plus, you do your best to be a nice guy.”

Moore’s retirement set off a mini-chain reaction in the Brenau Evening and Weekend College. His replacement is Angela Elkowitz, who previously ran the EWC programs in Gainesville. Her replacement as Gainesville campus director is Rosanne Short.

According to Elkowitz, Moore may have been sandbagging us a bit with his “no-big-deal” notion. “I’m finding out every day what a great and dedicated job Donny has been doing here,” she says. “It takes a while to realize all the different things the Brenau Augusta staff have to do on a day-to-day basis – from signing up students for classes to managing the facilities, making sure the classrooms are clean, the power bills paid and the water fountains working.”

Meanwhile, these days you’re likely to find Moore on his hog rolling up the Cherohala Skyway, back down the Tail of the Dragon through Deal’s Gap to Fontana Lake – a North Carolina-Tennessee route regarded as one of the great motorcycle treks in the western hemisphere. The biggest challenge he and his biker gang face is finding some little local restaurant with a nice prime rib.

– Rudi Kiefer



# Contact sports:

Brenau intercollegiate teams build camaraderie, competitiveness



## Soccer

The facts: You play outside whether its 100 degrees or freezing, slippery rain. You play on turf, which can be cement or quagmire. At the beginning of the 18-game season, you try to remember to bring the sunscreen. At the end, it's hand-warmers and earmuffs. Your basic equipment for the sport is arms, legs, feet and sometimes head. Goals are huge, but if it is so easy to get the ball inside one, why is it that most games end in single-digit scores?

Golden Tigers soccer players know what's in store, but still you can't get them to say their sport is tougher than the rest – at least not out loud. They concede that players on other team sports work very hard to perfect their skills, but they know from experience that soccer has challenges all its own, which is precisely why they love it. Kelly Young, a senior history major from Lawrenceville, Ga., likes the game's complexity. But she really likes the contact. "You get to run into people," she says. "You have to see the whole field at once and know where your opponent and your teammates are."

Brenau athletes like Young learned soccer fundamentals years ago, but they say they're still working on the many skills required by the game. "You can never be perfect," says Leanne Rowley, a junior business major from Ontario, Canada. "There's always someone challenging you for your spot." But it's that striving to be perfect that motivates these players even through three-a-day summer practices. This year head coach Mike Lochstampf shipped the team out to Jekyll Island, Ga., but wind sprints in the sand do not exactly make for a nice day at the beach.

Kim Meiowitz, a senior international studies major from Augusta, Ga., is known to take ice baths after games – almost as if the normal pain and suffering of competitive intercollegiate sports was not enough. "Everyone ends up pushing through injuries," she says. "It's constant pain and constant overcoming. Soccer is our life."

The upside is those who invest body and soul into discipline, teamwork and conditioning win games, or at least revel in seeing their teammates, or themselves, excel. And that, Meiowitz says, makes the pain worth it.

*(continued)*

*Above left, junior forward Lily Futrel of Savannah, Ga., kicks out against Reinhardt College in a nearly season 1-0 loss. Left, Candian Leanne Rowley, a junior, on the road.*





## Basketball

“Whenever you see a basketball player on campus, you see several basketball players,” co-captain Natasha Anderson says.

And it’s true. In a typical day, the teammates spend about three hours a day together, first running in the morning, then at practice. They eat meals together, go to some of the same classes and many of the players even live together. Anderson and teammate Sarah Ledford share a room in Yonah Hall, and if they need to borrow a cup of sugar-free sports drink, teammate Paige Cooper lives right next door.

It’s a family atmosphere, but players and coaches say that was not always the case. Like many families, the team started off a little dysfunctional. When head coach Gary Bays came to Brenau three years ago to launch the program, he and assistant Rae Anne Boothe, 23, had to be crack salespeople just to get high school and transfer prospects to take a chance on a new team. Although Bays concedes that those who took the risk showed some character, the year-one recruits joined a team with no existing leadership from experienced upperclass players. Personality clashes and power struggles ensued. Even team captains jumped ship. “The people who are still here are the ones who stuck,” says Anderson, who is from Blue Ridge, Ga. She is one of the few year-one players remaining. Once the players found their roles, superstar attitudes turned to selfless teamwork.

Anderson and co-captain Vicky Wilson of Buford, Ga., both junior education majors, play the part of big sisters on the team. “They are good listeners,” says Cooper, a junior in nursing from Sarasota, Fla., who describes the captains as mediators between the coaches and other players. Anderson explains: “They come to us, team captains, and we make the call about situations.”



If any player fills the parental role, teammates say it is veteran Lori Pope, a graduate student in business from Atlanta, an honor accorded for both her experience and her love for the team. “She keeps us in check and watches out for us,” Cooper says. When Pope comes into the game, Anderson says, she motivates everyone and makes things run smoothly.

Ledford, a junior in education from Ellijay, Ga., is the family overachiever. She’s the leading scorer, averaging 13.9 points per game. Teammates take pride in

*Above left, two-time member of the SSAC All Academic team, Lori Pope leads on and off the court. Left, Coach Bays is retoring quiet order to a once ‘dysfunctional family.’*



# Time Management, Matthews Style

*Kelsey Aley, a freshman in biology from Tallahassee, Fla., wakes at 7 a.m., grabs breakfast in her room and heads to class. After that, she has required study hall in the library three times a week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, she meets with Volleyball Coach Matthews for individual practice. Real practice with the rest of the team begins at 6 p.m. and can last until 9 p.m. or later. It's up to Aley to schedule required thrice-a-week weightlifting, "wherever it fits in."*

*If any Golden Tigers volleyball player thinks about making excuses for being late or cheating on workouts, Matthews is one step ahead. Each player signs a player-coach contract, which includes an honesty clause, says Aley. New players are not the only ones adjusting to the Matthews regimen. Audra VanArsdale, a junior accounting major from Pelham, Ala., had to retool the way she plans her day as well. Once, VanArsdale got so caught up in getting where she needed to be on time (the contract has a clause on punctuality as well), that she forgot to eat. "In one class, I looked down, and my hands were shaking," she says. Now she packs a lunch.*

her recognition as the first Golden Tiger to win SSAC All Conference recognition.

Cooper's personality is similar to an easy-going little sister. The team's leading rebounder, she says she likes to make people happy and comfortable, an attitude that has great value in recruiting new players.

In fact, the whole team now participates in recruiting. After a potential player interviews with coaches, the recruit practices with the team. Although recruits may fool some of the coaches some of the time, hardly anything of their true selves gets by the players on the court, Bays says. They'll quickly ferret out and expose slouchers and prima donnas. As a result of the new team attitude, the Tigers are reaping rewards. The team went from a 10-20 record in year one to 16-15 last year and qualified for the conference tournament with its sixth-place finish. That's a good start, Bays concedes, but the challenge is to stay hungry.

"Now teams know Brenau is good," says team leader Pope. "We've got to keep playing like we are. We can't go back to those bad habits and selfishness."

## Volleyball

It's not every night that volleyball gets a spot on primetime TV. Every four years the summer Olympics turns the camera to both the indoor and outdoor varieties. This year especially viewers across America tuned in to watch gold-medal beach duo Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh and the silver-medal U.S. indoor volleyball team – everybody, it seemed, except the Golden Tigers volleyball team. They were too busy with their own mini-Olympics.

Starting in mid-August, the players spent two weeks in the gym. At the end of gruelling eight-hour days, staying up late to watch other women thump volleyballs was not nearly as appealing as flopping into bed to recover for the next day. It was all part of head coach Meredith Matthews' plan to get Brenau volleyball players

focused on Brenau volleyball. Matthews took over in mid-season last year, and she immediately established a tougher regimen to counteract what she called the team's losing mentality.

"They had the mind-set that it's OK to lose," she says. In past seasons, fan attendance has been low, Matthews adds, because clearly players weren't even proud of their own team.

Matthews kicked some veteran players off the team and brought in new ones for a fresh start. Since players themselves were not doing their own time management, Matthews took charge of that as well – mapping out daily schedules for individuals that laid out time for practices and schoolwork. Players sign a contract that puts them on probation if they fall below a 2.8 GPA. Misbehave on or off the court and you're history.

Matthews admits there was resistance at first. "They were, like, 'are you serious?'" But she adds unapologetically that "what you learn from me, you can use in life." If a woman plays volleyball scared, Matthews wonders, then how is she going to handle academic challenges? How will she respond after college when she faces a demanding boss? Happily, Matthews says, the players are beginning to get it – not only as life lessons but as part of the more immediate task of playing well against tough competitors. Last season, she says she screamed directions to the players on the court during games. Now she has them "brainwashed" enough from disciplined practice that they react instinctively during games.

Audra VanArsdale, a junior in accounting from Pelham, Ala., says before Matthews took over the team, the players were frustrated by their lack of productivity.

"This year is better," she says, "because it feels like it's worth my time."

– Julie W. Boley

# Striking Symbol: *Shaw Ring celebrates accomplishment and potential*

## SHAW RING RECIPIENTS

- 1997 Brandi Fort, Milledgeville, Ga.
- 1998 Tina Coleman, Mt. Airy, Ga.
- 1999 Jennifer Caldwell Mielke, Braselton, Ga.
- 2000 Lori Cross, Akron, Ohio
- 2001 Porcha Carew, Hinesville, Ga.
- 2002 Ashlee Tising Falco, Midway, Fla.
- 2003 Pauline Clayton, Roswell, Ga.
- 2004 Marie Barnwell, Jefferson, Ga.
- 2005 Sheena Borders, Athens, Ga.
- 2006 Sabrina Masters, Dacula, Ga.
- 2007 Ashley Grubbs, Gainesville, Ga.
- 2008 Kristina Shepard Rhoades, Gainesville, Ga.



Kristina Shepard Rhoades, 2008 Shaw ring recipient.



Tom Askew

by Brittany Long, WC '10

Brenau is big on symbols – starting with its made-up “gold refined by fire” name, sash colors on May Day, Greek letters, passages through the gate, the Crow’s Nest, spades and the “four portals” logo. Few, however, are as visually striking as the Shaw Ring, awarded to a graduating senior at Women’s College Commencement each year since 1997.

Scott Briell, senior vice president of student services and enrollment, who carries the diamond, pearl and gold ring to commencement like a nervous best man at a wedding, says the Shaw Ring is “the highest non-academic honor” awarded to the graduating Women’s College senior whose service to community and the university best exemplifies the Brenau Ideal.

David and Patsy Mercer of Gainesville, Ga., established the endowment for the pearl-centered ring in 1996 to honor their daughter **Heather Mercer Shaw, WC '91**. David Mercer, a Citadel man, envisioned something similar to the prestigious John O. Wilson Ring cadets aspire to win at his alma mater. Freelance illustrator **Rachel Cotton-Smith, WC '00**, designed the ring when she was a freshman studio arts major, her idea selected by the Mercers from student submissions. As Heather Shaw explains, the Mercers had many friends and children of friends who attended Brenau, and her father wanted to give back to the community and the university, which she described as “near and dear to his heart.” Shaw lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., with husband, Clay, and four children. She wanted the

winners to be chosen by their peers and to have exhibited the following qualities: honest, respectful, admirable, a true lady, well-rounded, pure, dependable, trustworthy, self confident, dedicated, appreciative and courteous.

For Shaw, the classmate who most embodied those qualities, she says, was **Leila Cullen Kramer, WC '92**, an educational therapist in Washington, D.C. “Her personality and spirit were contagious,” Shaw recalls. “Although she was not the most active or popular person on campus, she was the truest and most dedicated student at Brenau.”

Ironically, as aspiring as Citadel cadets may be for the Wilson ring, according to an informal survey, many Brenau women hear about the Shaw Ring for the first time when one of their cap-and-gown-clad classmates rises up to receive it. Nominees’ reputations among other students definitely are considered in the selection of the recipient along with recommendations by deans of the four schools and academic department heads.

In 2008 the deans unanimously selected **Kristina Shepard Rhoades**, whom William Lightfoot, dean of business and mass communication, says exhibited all the proscribed qualities. However, in addition to looking for students who are “proactive and enthusiastic in helping others,” Lightfoot also says he projects how he envisions the person’s applying the Shaw Ring-winning qualities in the future.

Rhoades, paralyzed from the waist down since she was

a toddler, with her “Hot Wheels” moniker and companion dog, Chevy, remains a familiar site on campus as a new staff member, splitting time helping run the WBCX-FM radio station and teaching at Brenau Academy. She interprets the ring’s symbolism as both a reflection and a foreshadowing. As a student, she says philosophically, “you demonstrate what you have the potential for. I won’t give up, and I will give anything a try.”

Likewise, the first Shaw Ring recipient, **Brandi Fort, WC '97**, says she views it as the icing on her Brenau experience which helped her evolve from “shy and fearful of everything” into “a confident individual and leader.” The Milledgeville, Ga., resident now serves as a Baldwin County Schools psychologist. **Tina Coleman**, of Mt. Airy, Ga., the '98 recipient and the vice president for marketing with Financial Supermarkets, says the ring helped her to understand that good behavior does not go unnoticed. And Jefferson, Ga., kindergarten teacher,

**Marie Barnwell**, the '04 recipient, views the ring as an encouragement that “service is a life-long mission,” an ideal that she attempts to instill in her pupils.

“I touch lives every day, and that’s a blessing [to which] few people get to lay claim,” says Barrow County public health nurse **Sheena Borders** of Athens, Ga. The 2005 recipient says placing the Shaw Ring on her finger helped her “gain insight, build character and become a mentor of young girls.”

*“The Heather Mercer Shaw Ring is intended to highlight not only those accomplishments achieved during the recipient’s college career, but also the likelihood that she will contribute her time, efforts and the best of herself to her community in the future, wherever she may be, thereby fully representing the Brenau Ideal.” – Ashlee Falco, Midway, Fla., the 2002 Shaw Ring recipient.*

## SYMBOLS WITHIN A SYMBOL

GOLD BAND – BRENAU AS GOLD REFINED

PEARL – PURITY AND HONESTY

INTERTWINING GOLD ROPES – MYRIAD QUALITIES OF A

WELL-ROUNDED PERSON

KNOTS AT THE ENDS OF THE ROPE – FORM THE WHOLE PERSON

TASSELS – IDEAL WOMAN REACHES OUT TO A DIVERSE WORLD

DIAMONDS – VALUE DEVELOPED AT BRENAU